

Sunday Worship Service – February 8, 2026
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
With One Voice – Holy Communion – *Light of Christ*, Setting 4 (p.12-27)
The liturgy & hymns are from WOV

Words of Welcome by Pastor

Land Acknowledgement & Welcome Statement

Thanksgiving for the Waters Baptism¹

We bless you, almighty God, for the gift of water –

for the oceans that surround the earth.

for the rivers that nurture the land.

for the water that you provide for our community –

We bless you, O God, for the waters of earth.

We honor you, merciful God, for showering us with water –

for the rain that nourishes the plants and trees,

for the floods that restore the fields,

for the dew that freshens dry places –

for the snow that brings needed moisture to the land,

We honor you, O God, for the waters you send.

We glorify you, gracious God, for the waters of baptism –

for the water of the Jordan that washed our Lord Jesus.

for the water that baptized the believers on Pentecost,

for the water that illuminates us with your Word.

for the water that pours out the gifts of the Spirit.

for the water that bathes the church universal –

We glorify you, O God, for the waters of baptism.

We worship you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

almighty, merciful, and gracious.

Well of forgiveness, you revive us,

Cup of cold water, you refresh us.

Pool of rebirth, you renew us.

To you comes the worship of all your people, now and forever. Amen.

¹ *Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks: A Collection of Litanies, Laments, and Thanksgivings at Font and Table* © 2017 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reproduced by permission.

#718 (WOW) Gathering Hymn “*Here In This Place/Gather Us In*” (v.1, 3-4)

1. **Here in this place new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.**
3. **Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.**
4. **Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away –
here in this place the new light is shining,
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever,
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.**

p.12 Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

p.12 *Kyrie*

In peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.
For the peace of the whole world, the well being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**
 Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen**

Prayer of the Day

Light of the World, shine upon us, that we may glimpse your wisdom this day. Love of all creation, flow through us, that we may be filled with your compassion and grace. Flavor and spice of life, salt us with your truth, that we may spread your justice and love into all the corners of the earth. In the light of your love, we pray. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 58:1-9a

In this reading from the prophet Isaiah, Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.

A reading from Isaiah, the 58th chapter:

Shout loudly; don't hold back; raise your voice like a trumpet!
 Announce to my people their crime, to the house of Jacob their sins.
 They seek me day after day, desiring knowledge of my ways like a nation that acted righteously, that didn't abandon their God.
 They ask me for righteous judgments, wanting to be close to God.
 "Why do we fast and you don't see; why afflict ourselves and you don't notice?" Yet on your fast day you do whatever you want, and oppress all your workers. You quarrel and brawl, and then you fast; you hit each other violently with your fists. You shouldn't fast as you are doing today if you want to make your voice heard on high. Is this the kind of fast I choose, a day of self-affliction, of bending one's head like a reed and of lying down in mourning clothing and ashes? Is this what you call a fast, a day acceptable to God? Isn't this the fast I choose: releasing wicked restraints, untying the ropes of a yoke, setting free the mistreated, and breaking every yoke? Isn't it sharing your bread with the hungry and bringing the homeless poor into your house, covering the naked when you see them, and not hiding from your own family? Then your light will break out like the dawn, and you will be healed quickly. Your own righteousness will walk before you, and God's glory will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and God will answer; you will cry for help, and God will say, "I'm here."

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 112:1-9

Praise God!

Those who honor God, who adore God's commandments, are truly happy!

Their descendants will be strong throughout the land.

The offspring of those who do right will be blessed;
wealth and riches will be in their houses.

Their righteousness stands forever.

They shine in the dark for others who do right.

They are merciful, compassionate, and righteous.

Those who lend generously are good people—

as are those who conduct their affairs with justice.

Yes, these sorts of people will never be shaken;

the righteous will be remembered forever!

They won't be frightened at bad news

Their hearts are steady, trusting in God.

Their hearts are firm; they aren't afraid.

In the end, they will witness their enemies' defeat.

They give freely to those in need.

Their righteousness stands forever.

Their strength increases gloriously.

p.17 **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:13-20

As we hear a continuation of the reading of the Sermon on the Mount from the gospel of Matthew, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments.

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 5th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

"You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its saltiness, how will it become salty again? It's good for nothing except to be thrown away and trampled under people's feet. You are the light of the world. A city on top

of a hill can't be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they put it on top of a lampstand, and it shines on all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before people, so they can see the good things you do and praise your God who is in heaven. "Don't even begin to think that I have come to do away with the Law and the Prophets. I haven't come to do away with them but to fulfill them.

I say to you very seriously that as long as heaven and earth exist, neither the smallest letter nor even the smallest stroke of a pen will be erased from the Law until everything there becomes a reality.

Therefore, whoever ignores one of the least of these commands and teaches others to do the same will be called the lowest in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever keeps these commands and teaches people to keep them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. I say to you that unless your righteousness is greater than the righteousness of the legal experts and the Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

#677 (ELWB) Hymn of the Day "*This Little Light of Mine*"

1. This little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine;
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
2. Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine;
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
3. Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'a let it shine;
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

p.19 Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
 he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
 the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession²

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

Prayer petitions will end with "Merciful God" and the congregation is invited to respond with "**receive our prayer.**"

A brief silence.

Your church does ministry in many and various ways. Keep all your followers true to the mind of Christ, that our works and witness bring hope to a troubled world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your marvelous creation cries out to you. Restore polluted air, soil, and water sources to wholeness. Guard honeybees, elephants, great whales and songbirds from harm, and renew the face of the earth.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your people in every nation suffer injustice, poverty, and the threat of violence. Guide those in authority to govern with compassion, and bring peace to war zones (areas of conflict may be named). We pray for our enemies. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your blessings are poured out for all in need. Help and heal any who experience trauma, discrimination, disease, hunger, abuse, or persecution. Comfort those who are sick or grieving. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

² <https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Home/DayTexts>

Your wisdom guides this congregation and its ministries. Sustain our ordained leaders, staff, lay leaders, and volunteers. Form us to be salt and light for the neighbors we serve, following the example of Christ. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of God be with you always! **And also with you!**

p.21 Offertory

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed, we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer now.
Grace our table with your presence,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

p.21 Offering Prayer

Merciful God, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love.
Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

p.22 Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
 Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O God, through Christ our Lord.
 Sharing our life, Jesus lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to Jesus' own brilliant light.

And so with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

p.22 **Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Eucharistic Prayer³

Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the light and life of all.
By your powerful word you created all things.
Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.
Blessed are you for Jesus your light,
shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat, this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, Jesus took the cup,
Gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the covenant in my blood,
Shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering Christ's life and ministry,
his preaching and healing, his dying and rising,
and his promise to come again, we await that day
when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that,
refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world,

³ *With One Voice: Leaders Edition*, Eucharistic Prayer C – The Season of Epiphany, p.67 (adapted for inclusive language). © 1995 Augsburg Fortress Minneapolis.

revealing the brilliance of Jesus Christ.
This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

p.25 **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.
Amen.**

Communion (for online worshippers)

The body of Christ given for you. (*the bread is consumed*)
The blood of Christ shed for you. (*the wine/grape juice is consumed*)

Communion Distribution

We believe that Jesus is the true host of the Lord's Supper and that Jesus invites all and welcomes all to this meal of forgiveness and grace where we receive Christ's presence in the bread and the wine or grape juice.
We believe that Christ is present in the bread and wine, just as Jesus is present in and among each and everyone of us.
Therefore, we practice an open communion table at Bread of Life
Which means that if it is your desire to receive holy communion,
we believe the Holy Spirit has placed that desire in your heart
and it is Jesus who calls you and invites you.

We offer bread and gluten free bread.
If you wish to receive gluten free bread, just let me know.
We also offer wine and grape juice.
The wine is red and the grape juice is white.

As you come up for communion and pass the baptism font,
you are invited to dip your fingers in the water,
trace the sign of the cross that was placed on your forehead at your baptism
and remember that God loves you, forgives you, and is always with you.

At this time, I will invite our communion assistants and usher forward
as we prepare for communion distribution.

The congregation may begin singing the “Lamb of God” followed by the communion hymn #763 ***“Let Justice Flow Like Streams”***

Commune assistants, then assistant communes pastor.

p.25 **Lamb of God**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us,
have mercy on us, have mercy.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us,
have mercy on us, have mercy.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

#763 (WOV) Communion Hymn “Let Justice Flow Like Streams”

1. **Let justice flow like streams of sparkling water, pure,
enabling growth, refreshing life, abundant, cleansing, sure.**
2. **Let righteousness roll on as others’ cares we heed,
an overflowing stream of faith translated into deed.**
3. **So may God’s plumb line, straight, define our measure true,
and justice, right and peace pervade this world our whole life through.**

Communion Blessing

May the love and forgiveness of God,
that is present in this meal of bread and wine,
strengthen you and nourish you in your journey of faith,
confident in God’s unconditional love for you.

Prayer after communion

Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. **Amen.**

Announcements

Blessing

You are the light of the world!
Now take that light into all the places

that need the light and love of God.
Take that light into all the places
that need the light and grace of Jesus Christ.
Take that light into all the places
that need the light and inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
Go and be the light of the world!

#650 (WOV) Sending Hymn “*We Are Marching in the Light of God*”

1. We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God. (repeat)
We are marching, marching, we are marching oo.
We are marching in the light of God. (repeat)
2. We are praying...
3. We are singing...

Sending

Go in peace, to love and serve God through word and deed.

Thanks be to God!

Sources:

Bible passages (except where otherwise indicated) from Common English Bible (CEB) and have been adapted for inclusive language.